

Star Local News

community news & voices

News Update

Eagle Scout raises \$5,000 for City House

[Print Page](#)

By Conner Hammett,
chammett@acnpapers.com

Published: Friday, June 17, 2011 7:27 PM CDT

PLANO -- Nicholas Cobb has been a busy individual since he started the nonprofit Comfort and Joy in 2009. The organization, which collects winter coats for Collin County homeless shelters and charitable organizations, has raised \$20,690 and donated 283 winter coats to the Samaritan Inn, City House and Allen Community Outreach since its founding.

But something about Nicholas makes him a little different than the average owner of a nonprofit organization: He's 14 years old.

"I wasn't really sure if he really wanted to do it," said Nicholas' mother, Laura Cobb, of the first time Nicholas expressed an interest in establishing the nonprofit. "Little kids say they want to do all kinds of things. I didn't really know how to take it when he first did it, but I try to encourage him in anything he wants to do that's positive."

On Friday, Nicholas, who attends Allen High School and is an Eagle Scout, donated \$5,000 to the City House youth shelter in Plano. Nicholas used half of a \$10,000 award earned in 2010 from Make a Difference Day, a national day of charity sponsored by USA Weekend, to finance the donation.

The donation will help fund the Healthy Eating and Garden Project, in which an outdoor organic garden will be built at the shelter in an effort to promote healthful eating and teach horticulture skills to the young residents. The funds will also support the purchase of fruits and vegetables for residents during the garden's off-season.

"There has been a lot in the news about childhood obesity, and we're trying to instill in our residents a good grasp of healthy eating," said Karen Voelker, community relations manager for City House. "Our residents are children age 0-17 who have been removed from their homes by CPS due to abuse or neglect, so many of them have not been exposed to healthy foods."

Nicholas said he was more than happy to help out the shelter, which facilitated media



Submitted Photo - Toni Cofield (left), Comfort and Joy Board member and Nicholas Cobb (right), Comfort and Joy CEO, present a \$5,000 check Friday to City House CEO Teresa Keenan at the City House youth shelter in Plano. The donation will help fund the Healthy Eating and Garden Project, which establishes an organic garden at City House to help feed the shelter's residents and teach them the importance of proper nutrition.

coverage of his organization during last year's coat drive. The other \$5,000 from the National Make a Difference Day award will be used to purchase more coats and for other projects, he said.

"They want to help them develop good diet skills," Nicholas said. "They've been trying to do that project for many years, so they figured this would be a great opportunity."

City House has provided shelter and services to at-risk area youth since 1988. It provides room and board for abused and neglected children and young adults through its shelter, My Friend's House, and offers a transitional 18-month program for young adults 18-23 years old through Transitional Resources in Preparation for Success (TRIPS), a program designed to help at-risk young adults secure a high school education and employment.

Nicholas' work has gained significant local media coverage in the past couple of years, but his interest in helping the less fortunate goes back much further. When he was 4, he said saw a family living in boxes under a bridge, an event that led him to dedicate himself toward helping the less fortunate.

He started by collecting hotel soap and toiletries from his mother after she traveled, donating the items to The Samaritan Inn homeless shelter in McKinney and helping out with other projects. He participated in National Make a Difference Day for the first time at age 9 and launched Comfort and Joy as part of his Eagle Scout project in 2009, collecting 129 coats for residents of the Samaritan Inn.

Nicholas said he has plans to keep the nonprofit going for as long as he is able and encourages his peers to follow his example and work to help the less fortunate.

So why does he do it?

"The feeling that you get when you help someone who's homeless, the feeling that you're giving them something they really need," he said. "It feels great to know that you've made their life a little bit better, and that makes me want to keep doing it."

For information about Comfort and Joy and to donate, visit www.comfortandjoytexas.org. For information about City House, visit www.cityhouse.org.

Copyright © 2011 - Star Local News

[\[x\] Close Window](#)